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state whether Government have since come to a final decision on the question of controlling the distribution of tickets in foreign lotteries and sweepstakes?

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN (Minister for Public Information) on behalf of the Hon. Sri K. Raman Menon:—"The matter is still under the consideration of the Government."

Administration of the Ramnad Estate by the Court of Wards.

* 126 Q.—SRI A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) when the Ramnad Estate was taken charge of by the Court of Wards and the reasons for assumption of the management by the Court of Wards;

(b) what the total amount of debts payable is by the estate and how much of this was incurred by the present Raja;

(c) how long do the Government propose to continue the management of the Court of Wards and when does the Court of Wards propose to hand over the estate to the Raja;

(d) what the amounts of allowances paid are to the Raja of Ramnad and his dependants by the Court of Wards;

(e) who such dependants are and what their relationship is to the Raja;

(f) whether the Court of Wards hopes to discharge the debts within two years from the date of taking charge and if not whether the Government propose to take the estate out of the Court of Wards' management;

(g) whether any creditors of the Raja complained that their ordinary remedies to proceed against the estate are now made impossible;

(h) whether there are any junior members of the Raja's family who are entitled to maintenance;

(i) whether any of the junior members was denied his or her allowance by the Court of Wards;

(j) whether any decrees of the court have been obtained by any junior members and if so, whether such decrees for maintenance are being satisfied by the Court of Wards and if not, whether the Government will be pleased to state the reasons for withholding such maintenance;

(k) whether there is any proposal pending before the Court of Wards for leasing the whole estate; if not, what the measures are which the Court of Wards proposes to take for discharging the whole of the debts;

(l) how much has been spent by the Court of Wards since its assumption of management of tank maramat of the Ramnad Estate; and

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(*m*) whether the Court of Wards proposes to invest further amounts in tank maramat and whether there is any proposal before the Court of Wards for any comprehensive scheme for tank maramat for the whole of the zamindari and if not, whether the Government propose to ascertain one and carry out the same?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (*a*) The Government were, on an application by the Raja under section 18 of the Court of Wards Act, 1902, satisfied that it was in the public interests that the estate should be placed under the management of the Court of Wards and passed orders accordingly. The Court of Wards assumed the management of the estate on 31st July 1935.

" (*b*) The debts due by the estate on 1st July 1937 amounted to about Rs. 30 lakhs. The Government have no information regarding the latter part of the question.

" (*c*) It is not possible to say at present.

" (*d*) The normal budget of the estate provides for the payment of an annual allowance of Rs. 52,000 to the Raja and of Rs. 64,000 to his dependents.

" (*e*) & (*h*) The Government do not maintain a list of the Raja's dependents.

" (*f*) It is already over two years since the estate was taken over by the Court of Wards. The estate is not yet free from debt but there is no intention at present to remove the estate from the management of the Court of Wards.

" (*g*) No such complaint has been received by the Government.

" (*i*) & (*j*) Sri Rajaram Pandiyan, the paternal uncle of the Raja, had obtained a compromise decree against the late Raja for the payment of a maintenance allowance of Rs. 1,500 per mensem. The Court reduced this to Rs. 450 per mensem pending further examination and subsequently paid all arrears of allowance at Rs. 1,500 per mensem. The Government know of no other decrees.

" (*k*) The Government are not aware of any such proposal. The steps to be taken to discharge the debts are under the consideration of the Court of Wards.

" (*l*) Rupees 2,94,904 up to 30th June 1937.

" (*m*) The Court of Wards has a programme of improvements to irrigation works in the estate."

SRI A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR:—" May I know whether the Government have got any scheme for liquidating the large amount of debt in the near future, and if not, whether the Government will hand over the estate to the Raja? "

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" There has been a scheme to liquidate the debt, and if the debt cannot be liquidated, Government would not care to keep it for any long period."

SRI RAO BAHADUR N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR :— " May I know whether any representation has been received from the Raja to hand over the estate to him? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" No."

Water-supply scheme of the Cuddalore Municipal Council.

* 127 *Q.*—SRI R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government directed the Municipal Council, Cuddalore, to keep in readiness Rs. 50,000 from the water fund account to commence the work in the current year and the Council accordingly withdrew the amount from the fixed deposit account in banks, foregoing interest;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Department of Public Works which is in charge of the scheme was about to commence the work in December 1938 and even chalked out a programme of expenditure;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the commencement of the water-supply scheme has been postponed definitely;

(*d*) what the reasons are for the telephonic cancellation of putting the scheme into execution by Government;

(*e*) when the work is likely to be commenced; and

(*f*) whether any allotment has been proposed to be made in the budget for 1939–40 towards the loan and grant for this scheme?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) In July last, the Commissioner of the Cuddalore Municipality was asked to report whether it will be possible for the council to find any portion of its share of the cost of the scheme from its own funds in the current year. He reported that a sum of Rs. 50,000 can be made available for expenditure on the work. In order to find this sum two fixed deposits amounting to Rs. 19,000 were withdrawn by the council when they matured for payment and kept it in the current account anticipating that sanction will be accorded for the execution of the scheme in the current year. The Government did not instruct the council to withdraw the fixed deposits.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*d*) The Government considered the question of sanctioning the execution of the scheme in the current year, but finally decided that it should be put forward as a Part II Scheme for 1939–40 as it was a new scheme involving the payment